

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system ~~including~~comprising:
a fuel cell body-(S);
a first portion (2)-and a second portion (7)-which form a passage (2a, 5, 6, 7d)
for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body-(S); and
a hydrogen exhaust valve (3, 4)-disposed in the passage (2a, 5, 6, 7d)-between
the first portion (2)-and the second portion-(7),

~~characterized in that~~wherein

_____the first portion (2)-and the second portion (7)-are directly fixed to each other
and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body (S)-following start up of
the fuel cell body-(S).

2. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
_____the first portion is a gas-liquid separation unit (2)-supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body-(S).

3. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein
_____the first portion is an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell
body (S)-and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.

4. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein
_____the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit (7)-supplied with heat from
inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body-(S).

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the
hydrogen processing unit is a ~~dilation~~dilution unit-(7).

6. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein
_____ the hydrogen processing unit is a combustion unit.
7. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein
one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) includes a cover (7a) formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4); and
the other one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) closes the internal space of the cover (7a) within which the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) is disposed.
8. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein
_____ a spring member (12; 13) is interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) and one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7) to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) against the other one of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7).
9. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein
_____ the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) is fixed to the first portion (2) and the second portion (7).
10. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein
_____ seal mechanisms (8; 9; 10; 11) are respectively interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve (3; 4) and each of the first portion (2) and the second portion (7).